

## FY 2021 JOURNEY TO SELF-RELIANCE

# COUNTRY ROADMAPS WHAT'S DIFFERENT?

### Overview

In this year's J2SR Country Roadmaps, four primary metrics have been modified—three by source organizations and one by USAID—and a new trend data feature has been added to each Country Roadmap. The metric changes and new trend feature improve the Roadmap's overall accuracy and utility as a tool for strategic planning and bilateral dialogue. The Roadmap framework of seven sub-dimensions, three in the commitment dimension and four in the capacity dimension, and a total of 17 Roadmap metrics remains unchanged.



### Why is the Roadmap Different This Year?

Each year, in advance of the launch of the Country Roadmap in October, the Journey to Self-Reliance Metrics Team reviews the 17 Roadmap metrics to determine if any changes should be made, with consideration of the following:

- Changes to the existing metrics made by the third-party indicator institutions;
- Newly-available data;
- Feedback from USAID Missions, Bureaus, partner governments, and external stakeholders; and
- USAID's evolving understanding of commitment and capacity dynamics worldwide.

This year, the majority of changes simply reflect methodological improvements incorporated by the metrics' source institutions over the past year. In conjunction with those changes, USAID has also reviewed and analyzed all other metrics to identify additional opportunities to improve Roadmap accuracy, timeliness, and usability. Ultimately, we want the Roadmap to provide an accurate and conceptually robust snapshot of the self-reliance story across the developing world.

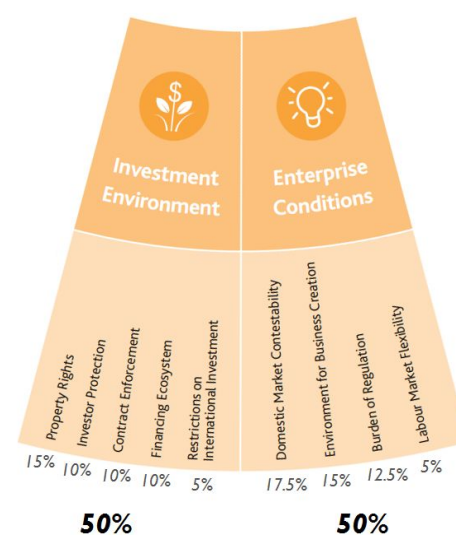
### What Changed with the Journey to Self-Reliance Metrics in FY 2021?

This year's Roadmap includes four changes to the primary metrics: three metrics have been revised by the third-party indicator institution and one metric has been replaced. Each change is outlined below:

**1. Tax System Effectiveness:** In its 2019/2020 release, [USAID’s Collecting Taxes Database](#) (CTD) refined this metric, formally known as “Tax Effort”, to draw on the ratio of actual tax revenues collected as a proportion of predicted “Tax Capacity” in each country. Previous CTD versions estimated both this metric’s numerator (likely tax revenues collected) and its “Tax Capacity” denominator (expected level of tax revenue that a country could achieve, given its macroeconomic, demographic, and institutional features) using the same regression model. The use of actual tax revenues collected annually in each country allows for more appropriate comparisons across countries, and for direct measurement of actual progress in tax revenue generation achieved within countries over time.

**2. Safety & Security:** In 2019, the Legatum Institute bolstered its Safety & Security assessment to better measure the physical safety and security of all citizens and their property across country contexts. The sub-indicators that comprise the Safety & Security metric have nearly doubled—from 11 to 21 indicators—and are now organized into five elements: (1) War and Civil Conflict (20% weight), (2) Terrorism (15%), (3) Politically Related Terror and Violence (30%), (4) Violent Crimes (25%), and (5) Property Crimes (10%). The new version places greater emphasis on political violence, offers new factors on women’s physical security and the business costs of insecurity, and removes several issues that can be hazardous in physically stable and secure environments (including road deaths and availability of adequate food and shelter). This new, more expansive assessment of each government’s capacity to ensure the safety and security of its citizenry remains very much in line with this metric’s inclusion in the J2SR framework.

**3. Business Environment (Now ‘Business & Investment Environment’):** In 2019, the Legatum Institute significantly revamped its Global Prosperity Index conceptual framework and, by extension, its underlying indicator base to more accurately gauge the multifaceted nature of prosperity worldwide. Through its methodological overhaul, Legatum’s Prosperity Index framework expanded from 9 pillars based on 104 indicators to 12 new pillars<sup>1</sup> organized into 65 policy-focused elements underpinned by 294 indicators. Legatum split and expanded the former Business Environment pillar (used in prior FY Country Roadmaps) across several new pillars, now offering a simultaneously more expansive and more detailed analysis of each country’s business enabling environment.

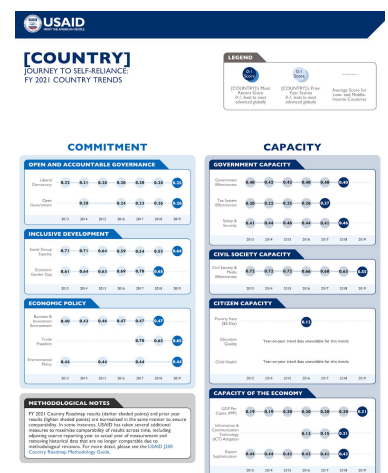


<sup>1</sup> Prosperity Framework pillars: Investment Environment, Enterprise Conditions, Market Access & Infrastructure, Economic Quality, Safety & Security, Personal Freedom, Governance, Social Capital, Living Conditions, Health, Education, Natural Environment

**4. New 'Environmental Policy' Metric (Formerly Biodiversity & Habitat Protections):** This metric gauges each country's commitment to responsible natural resource management (NRM), both in terms of commitment to establishing needed legislation, and commitment to effectively seeing that legislation through with adequate resourcing, implementation, and enforcement. This metric was previously based on Yale's Biodiversity & Habitat Protections indicator (BDH), examining the extent to which countries' critical biomes, habitats, and species are covered under national environmental protections laws. While a useful signal for broader NRM commitment trends, the indicator addresses only a small portion of the array of NRM issues countries face and only examines legislation, without consideration of whether countries implement those protections adequately.

## What Else Has Changed in the FY 2021 Roadmaps?

The Roadmap's trends section uses the same normalization technique as the "latest year" results presented on the Roadmap's first page. For the 2013-2019 period, all raw data is normalized onto the Roadmap's 0-1 scale in the same fashion, where a "0" represents the worst score



achieved globally and a "1" represents the best score achieved globally during each metric's reference period (typically 2010-2018). USAID's J2SR Metrics Team has made every effort to align each metric reporting as closely as possible to the year of actual measurement, as opposed to year of source reporting, to ensure comparability of results across metrics and years. See the [J2SR Country Roadmap Methodology Statement](#) for more details.

## What do these changes mean for Missions?

The purpose of the Roadmap as a high-level strategic planning tool and key input to bilateral dialogue remains unchanged. The FY 2021 Roadmap changes leverage methodological improvements made by the metrics' source institutions, respond directly to stakeholder feedback, and better-reflect the development reality on the ground. In most instances the changes will not result in significant shifts to a country's placement on the scatter plot based on its commitment and capacity scores. Users are **strongly encouraged** to compare trends over time using the new second-page trends feature instead of comparing the FY 2021 Roadmap to prior FY Roadmaps, which are now outdated and not comparable to current results.

Missions are expected -- after consultation with their Chiefs of Mission -- to share their country's FY 2021 Roadmap with the host country government and solicit its feedback where possible. In addition, Missions are encouraged to convene their staff to explore the data, revisit and refine the Mission's understanding of self-reliance in its unique country context, and consider how results have evolved over time using the new second page trends feature and secondary data sources.

While USAID/Washington will continue to evaluate the Roadmap and make incremental improvements, the Roadmap is far from comprehensive and is subject to certain limitations including data gaps, time lags, and a lack of sub-national resolution. For these reasons, Missions are strongly encouraged to explore the concepts embedded in the sub-dimensions of the Roadmap using the [J2SR Secondary Metric Compendium](#) and other relevant sources of data and analytics.

## Additional Resources:

The Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning (PPL) has developed several [useful resources](#) to help Missions, Bureaus, and external stakeholders analyze, understand, and apply Country Roadmaps, including:

- [How to Read a Roadmap One Pager](#)
- [FY 2021 Country Roadmap Methodology Guide](#)
- [J2SR Secondary Metrics Compendium, User Guide, Quick Reference and FAQs](#)

## QUICK REFERENCE

### FY 2021 Journey to Self-Reliance Country Roadmaps

The FY 2021 Country Roadmaps contain five changes based on:

- Three modifications to the existing metrics by the third party metric institutions;
- One USAID-driven metric change, based on evolving data landscape and feedback from USAID Missions, Bureaus, and external stakeholders; and
- New trend data feature enabling assessment of metric changes over time.

#### Four Metric Changes:

- **Tax System Effectiveness**: Metric source (USAID's Collecting Taxes Database) modified methodology to improve accuracy by using actual tax revenue collected instead of a modeled number.
- **Safety & Security**: Metric source (Legatum Institute) modified its assessment to better-measure the physical safety and security of citizens and property.
- **Business Environment (now "Business & Investment Environment")**: Metric source (Legatum Institute) refined and expanded the former indicator. Metric has been adjusted to ensure a consistent, comprehensive, commitment-oriented assessment of each country's business enabling environment.
- **Biodiversity & Habitat Protection (now "Environmental Policy")**: New metric from Bertelsmann Transformation Index provides a more comprehensive assessment of a country's commitment to responsible natural resource management, both in terms of establishing relevant legislation and effectively resourcing, implementing, and enforcing the legislation.

#### Trend Data

This year's Country Roadmaps will include a new, second page providing historical scores for all 17 Roadmap metrics for the 2013-2019 period, data coverage permitting. This trend data will allow users to more easily assess J2SR metric score trajectories over time. Since adjustments have been made to ensure historical comparability of the trend data, prior year Roadmaps should not be used to assess year-to-year changes.

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